

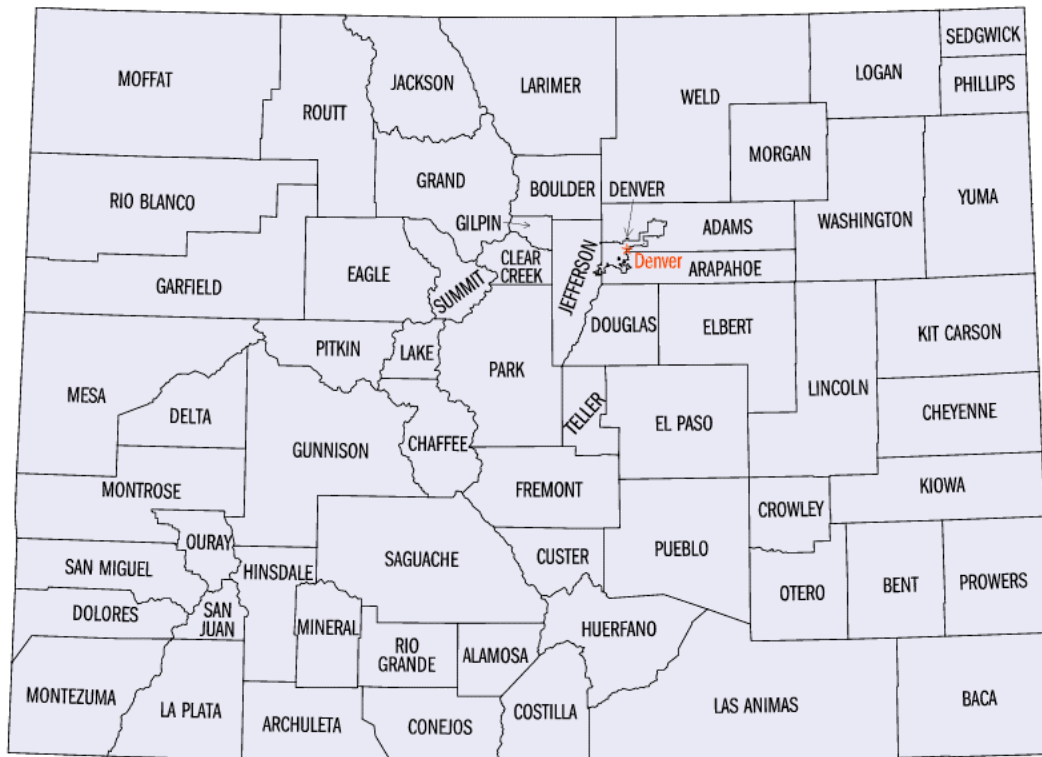
# Office of National Drug Control Policy

## Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse

### State of Colorado

#### Profile of Drug Indicators

September 2003



ONDCP Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse staff compiled this profile by using the most recent data available from open sources. The data presented are as accurate as the sources from which they were drawn. The information contained in this profile should not be used to rank or compare States or jurisdictions, due to differences in data collection and reporting methods.

## **Colorado**

The following profile contains information on demographics, political figures, programs, crime, drug use, drug trafficking, and enforcement statistics.

### **Demographics<sup>1</sup>**

- Population: 4,506,542 (2002 Census estimate); 4,301,261 (2000 Census)
- Race/ethnicity (2000 Census): 74.5% white; 3.7% black/African American; 0.7% American Indian/Alaska Native; 2.2% Asian; 0.1% Native Hawaiian/other Pacific Islander; 0.1% some other race; 1.7% two or more races; 17.1% Hispanic/Latino (of any race)

### **Political**

- Governor: Bill Owens<sup>2</sup>
- Lt. Governor: Jan Norton<sup>3</sup>
- Attorney General: Ken Salazar<sup>4</sup>
- Secretary of State: Donetta Davidson<sup>5</sup>
- U.S. Senators: Ben Campbell (R); Wayne A. Allard (R)<sup>6</sup>
- U.S. Representatives: Diana DeGette (D); Mark Udall (D); Scott McInnis (R); Marilyn N. Musgrave (R); Joel Hefley (R); Thomas Gerard Tancredo (R); Bob Beauprez (R)<sup>7</sup>

### **Programs/Initiatives**

- High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA)<sup>8</sup>  
The Rocky Mountain HIDTA was designated in 1996 and is responsible for areas in Colorado, Utah and Wyoming. In Colorado, this HIDTA is responsible for the following areas/counties: Adams, Arapahoe, Boulder, Denver, Douglas, Eagle, El Paso, Garfield, Grand, Jefferson, LaPlata, Larimer, Pueblo, Mesa, Moffat, Routt, and Weld.
- Colorado Drug-Free Workplace<sup>9</sup>  
Colorado Drug-Free Workplace is a non-profit association of businesses concerned about the impact of drugs and alcohol in the workplace. These businesses have joined together to collaborate with each other to make local workplaces safe and drug-free, to improve productivity, and enhance the health of local employees.

### **Funding**

- Drug Free Communities Support Program Grantees in Colorado: <sup>10</sup>
  - FY 2002: no grantees
  - FY 2001:
    - \$100,000 awarded to Westminster Area Community Awareness Action Team, Westminster
  - FY 2000:
    - \$99,975 awarded to Boulder County Board of Commissioners, Cortez
    - \$96,423 awarded to Pinon Project for the School/Community Youth Coalition, Cortez

- \$99,900 awarded to Connecting Colorado Prevention Coalition for the Peer Assistance Services, Inc., Denver
- FY 1999:
  - \$99,160 awarded to the Adolescent Counseling Exchange, Denver
  - \$87,168 awarded to the TEAM Fort Collins, Fort Collins
- FY 1998:
  - \$99,978 awarded to the Grand Futures Prevention Coalition of Granby, Craig
  - \$100,000 awarded to the Mesa County Health Department, Grand Junction
  - \$94,045 awarded to the Ouray County Schools Community Resource Consortium, Ouray
- Executive Office for Weed and Seed<sup>11</sup>

There are two Weed and Seed sites in Colorado -- Denver and Aurora.
- FY 2002/03 Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration Formula and Discretionary Grant Allotments Summary:<sup>12</sup>
  - Formula Funding - \$30,003,751
    - Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Block Grant - \$23,366,008
    - Community Mental Health Services Block Grant - \$5,625,743
    - Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness (PATH) - \$612,000
    - Protection and Advocacy Formula Grant - \$400,000
  - Discretionary Funding - \$10,572,999
    - Mental Health - \$4,864,188
    - Substance Prevention - \$1,534,684
    - Substance Abuse Treatment - \$4,174,127
  - Total Mental Health Funds - \$11,501,931
  - Total Substance Abuse Funds - \$29,074,819
  - Total Funds for Colorado - \$40,576,750
- FY 2003 Byrne Formula Grant Program amount awarded to Colorado: \$7,687,952<sup>13</sup>
- FY 1996-2003 Residential Substance Abuse Treatment (RSAT) for State Prisoners Formula Grant amount allocated to Colorado:
  - FY 1996 \$306,044<sup>14</sup>
  - FY 1997 \$350,070<sup>15</sup>
  - FY 1998 \$773,466<sup>16</sup>
  - FY 1999 \$773,896<sup>17</sup>
  - FY 2000 \$794,066<sup>18</sup>
  - FY 2001: \$825,344<sup>19</sup>
  - FY 2002: \$940,346<sup>20</sup>
  - FY 2003: \$903,673<sup>21</sup>
- FY 2002 Community Oriented Policing Services Methamphetamine Grant recipients for Colorado:<sup>22</sup>
  - \$222,222 to the Logan County Sheriff's Department
- Colorado did not receive any funding for the FY 2002 Drug Courts Grant Program.<sup>23</sup>
- FY 2001 Housing and Urban Development Drug Elimination Grant awarded in Colorado:<sup>24</sup>
  - \$125,000 to G.H.B. Housing, Ltd, Colorado Springs

## Crime and Drug-Related Crime

- During 2002, there were 15,144 adults and 3,746 juveniles arrested for drug violations in Colorado.<sup>25</sup>

Number of Arrests, Selected Offenses, Colorado, 2002

Offense Type	Adult	Juvenile
Murder	121	10
Rape	425	110
Robbery	687	208
Burglary	2,117	1,223
Auto theft	1,670	1,507
Aggravated assault	4,178	830
Simple assault	19,054	3,747
Larceny	17,640	8,403
Arson	143	253
Drug violations	15,144	3,746
DUI	33,462	876
Liquor law violations	15,130	5,219
Total arrests	211,664	54,008

- During 1999, there were 16,765 arrests for drug abuse violations in Colorado.<sup>26</sup> This number decreased to 16,080 during 2000.<sup>27</sup> During 2001, there were 16,598 drug abuse violation arrests in Colorado.<sup>28</sup>

Number of Arrests, Selected Offenses, Colorado, 1999-2001

Offense Type	1999	2000	2001
Murder and non-negligent manslaughter	99	110	133
Forcible rape	511	415	410
Robbery	634	671	841
Aggravated assault	3,922	3,975	4,220
Burglary	2,212	2,469	2,775
Larceny-theft	18,842	21,410	21,371
Motor vehicle theft	1,801	2,278	2,390
Arson	220	316	296
Drug abuse violations	16,765	16,080	16,598
DUI	30,564	23,725	23,579
Liquor laws	18,424	18,179	18,559
Drunkenness	242	428	454

## Drugs

- Cocaine

Cocaine is considered a significant drug threat to Colorado. Powder cocaine is readily available throughout the State and crack cocaine is available in urban population areas. Cocaine is the drug most often associated with violent crime in the State. Retail quantities of powder cocaine sell for \$70-\$125 per gram.<sup>29</sup> Cocaine is generally sold

in ounce and pound quantities in Colorado. Crack use is declining but remains available in the larger metropolitan areas of Colorado.<sup>30</sup>

- Heroin<sup>31</sup>  
The most common types of heroin available in Colorado are Mexican black tar heroin and brown powdered heroin. New heroin users in Colorado are often young adults who smoke or snort the drug rather than inject it. This is due to a misconception that this practice is safer and less likely to lead to addiction.
- Marijuana<sup>32</sup>  
Marijuana is readily available in multi-pound quantities throughout Colorado. A highly potent form of marijuana, called “BC Bud,” is also easily obtainable. Effective June 1, 2001, Amendment 20 allows for the use and possession of small amounts of marijuana for sick and dying patients. It provides protection against prosecution under state law, which is where the vast majority of marijuana small-use and possession cases occur.
- Methamphetamine  
Methamphetamine is a primary drug threat to Colorado and is commonly abused in homes, public venues such as nightclubs and raves, and other private locations. Crystal methamphetamine, also known as glass in Colorado, is becoming increasingly available throughout the State and has tested as high as 90% pure.<sup>33</sup> Purity levels for methamphetamine vary in Colorado, although the overall purity levels have been dropping significantly in recent years. Locally produced methamphetamine is of a higher potency than that imported from Mexico.<sup>34</sup>
- Club drugs  
Club drugs, which are mostly synthetic substances, are increasing in availability and use in Colorado. LSD in liquid form is readily available in the metropolitan areas of Colorado.<sup>35</sup> During 2001, 34% of those surveyed in Colorado reported lifetime usage of MDMA. 4.5% of those surveyed reported usage of MDMA within the past 30 days. The average user age was 17.3, and the average age of first time use was 15.9 years.<sup>36</sup>
- Diverted Pharmaceuticals<sup>37</sup>  
The diversion and abuse of OxyContin (oxycodone) is a significant problem in Colorado. Hydrocodone (Vicodin) and Darvocet are the most commonly abused controlled substances.
- According to 1999-2000 data from the National Household Survey on Drug Abuse, 31.82% of Colorado citizens ages 12 and older felt that smoking marijuana once a month posed a great risk.<sup>38</sup>

Percent of Citizens Reporting Drug Use, by Age, Colorado, 1999-2000 Data

	12-17	18-25	26 +	All ages
Past month use of any illicit drug	12.96	23.91	5.71	8.86
Past month use of marijuana	10.80	20.49	5.21	7.80
Past month use of illicit drug other than marij.	5.11	9.20	1.84	3.15
Past year cocaine use	2.42	8.73	1.38	2.45
Great risk of smoking marijuana once a month	27.20	20.28	34.44	31.82

- According to 2000 data from the National Household Survey on Drug Abuse, 1.58% of Colorado citizens reported past year dependence on illicit drugs.<sup>39</sup>

Percent of Citizens Reporting Past Year Dependence, Colorado, 2000

	12-17	18-25	26 +	All ages
Illicit drug dependence	2.86	4.40	0.92	1.58
Illicit drug dependence or abuse	5.33	6.10	1.38	2.42
Alcohol dependence	1.95	5.66	1.72	2.27
Alcohol dependence or abuse	6.79	15.93	4.62	6.34
Alcohol or illicit drug dependence or abuse	9.38	18.90	5.15	7.42

- Findings from a telephone survey conducted between May 2000 and July 2001 showed that of families receiving public assistance in Colorado, 52% reported using both drugs and alcohol at some point in their lifetime. Of those surveyed reporting usage within the past 30 days, 28% reported using alcohol, 1% reporting using drugs only, and 3% reported using alcohol and drugs.<sup>40</sup>

### Juveniles

- During 1999, there were 2,535 juvenile arrests for drug abuse violations in Colorado.<sup>41</sup> This number increased to 3,014 during 2000.<sup>42</sup> During 2001, there were 3,218 juvenile drug abuse violation arrests in Colorado.<sup>43</sup>

Number of Juvenile Arrests, Selected Offenses, Colorado, 1999-2001

Offense Type	1999	2000	2001
Murder and non-negligent manslaughter	20	6	15
Forcible rape	145	74	73
Robbery	166	205	223
Aggravated assault	574	606	668
Burglary	949	991	1,067
Larceny-theft	6,792	7,570	6,999
Motor vehicle theft	793	1,074	1,105
Arson	147	203	186
Drug abuse violations	2,535	3,014	3,218
DUI	754	486	537
Liquor laws	4,068	3,959	4,445
Drunkenness	18	16	9

- During 2001 in Colorado, 30.2% of high school students reported current marijuana use and 48.9% of high school students reported using marijuana at least once in their lifetime.<sup>44</sup>

Percent of High School Students Reporting Drug Use, Colorado, 2001

	Male	Female	Total
Lifetime marijuana use	45.5%	52.1%	48.9%
Current marijuana use	27.0	33.3	30.2
Lifetime cocaine use	11.4	11.1	11.2
Current cocaine use	5.3	4.8	5.0
Lifetime inhalant use	16.2	11.4	13.6
Current inhalant use	5.1	2.7	3.8
Lifetime heroin use	2.8	3.8	3.3
Lifetime methamphetamine use	10.8	10.9	10.9
Lifetime illegal steroid use	3.8	5.6	4.7
Lifetime injecting of illegal drug use	2.3	2.3	2.3
Tried marijuana before age 13 years	14.5	16.8	15.6

**Enforcement**

- As of October 31, 2001, there were 15,172 full-time law enforcement employees working in Colorado (10,250 officers and 4,922 civilians).<sup>45</sup>

**Trafficking and Seizures**

- Federal agencies seized 45 kilograms of cocaine in Colorado during 2002.<sup>46</sup>

Amount of Drugs Seized by Federal Agencies, Colorado, 2002

Drug Type	Amount Seized in Kilograms
Cocaine	45
Heroin	0
Methamphetamine	18.9
Marijuana	43.5

- During 2001, there were 216 methamphetamine laboratories seized in Colorado.<sup>47</sup>

Number of Meth Labs Seized, Colorado, 1996-2001

Year	Meth Labs Seized
1996	16
1997	24
1998	52
1999	104
2000	137
2001	216

- During 2002, more than 15,000 cultivated marijuana plants were eradicated in Colorado under the DEA's Domestic Cannabis Eradication/Suppression Program.<sup>48</sup>

Number of Marijuana Plants Eradicated and Seized, Colorado, 2002

Outdoor Operations		Indoor Operations		Total
Eradicated Plots	Cultivated Plants Eradicated	Grows Seized	Plants Eradicated	Cultivated Plants Eradicated
128	11,597	39	3,530	15,127

- The majority of methamphetamine available in Colorado is produced by Mexican drug trafficking organizations (DTOs) and criminal groups in Mexico, California, and Arizona. Mexican DTOs dominate transportation and distribution of wholesale quantities of methamphetamine in Colorado. Caucasian criminal groups and local independent dealers also produce large quantities of methamphetamine.<sup>49</sup>
- Mexican DTOs and criminal groups transport wholesale quantities of powder cocaine into Colorado and distribute the drug at the wholesale level. Hispanic and African American street gangs distribute powder and crack cocaine at the wholesale and retail levels. Retail distributors in Colorado typically convert powder cocaine into crack on an as-needed basis.<sup>50</sup>
- Mexican DTOs transport heroin into the State and are the primary wholesale and retail distributors of the drug.<sup>51</sup>
- Marijuana is distributed primarily by Mexican DTOs and criminal groups at the wholesale level. Hispanic and African American street gangs distribute at the retail level and Caucasian criminal groups and local independent groups produce and distribute marijuana and sinsemilla.<sup>52</sup>

### Courts

- Drug Courts  
As of May 2003, there were 9 drug courts operating or being planned in Colorado. Two drug courts had been operating for over 2 years, 2 drug courts were recently implemented, and 5 drug courts were being planned.<sup>53</sup>
- In FY 2001, approximately 31.8% of the Federally-sentenced defendants in Colorado were charged with a drug offense. Approximately 34% of the offenses involved powder cocaine.<sup>54</sup>

### Federally-Sentenced Drug Offenders, Colorado, FY 2001

Drug Type Involved	Number	Percent
Powder cocaine	53	34.0%
Crack cocaine	26	16.7
Heroin	6	3.8
Marijuana	20	12.8
Methamphetamine	48	30.8
Other	3	1.9

### Corrections

- According to the Colorado Department of Corrections, there were 18,846 adult prisoners under supervision on June 30, 2003.<sup>55</sup>
- During FY 2002, 24.4% of those incarcerated in Colorado had committed a drug offense, compared to 22.8% during FY 2001.<sup>56</sup>



- As of December 31, 2002, there were 58,986 adults on probation and 6,215 on parole in Colorado.<sup>57</sup>

### Consequences of Use

- Of the 7,380 AIDS cases reported in Colorado through March 2002, 9% (661 cases) were classified as injecting drug users (IDUs).<sup>58</sup>
- In 2001, the Colorado State Patrol wrote 8,516 citations for drinking and driving. In 2001, there were 2,568 driving under the influence (DUI) caused crashes investigated by the Colorado State Patrol.<sup>59</sup>
- Cocaine related deaths in Colorado ranged from 146 in 1999; to 116 in 2000; to 134 in 2001.<sup>60</sup>
- Opiate related deaths in Colorado averaged 85 per year between 1990-1996. There was a 75% increase in opiate related deaths from 1996 through 2001, averaging 150 per year.<sup>61</sup>
- Between 1994 and 1997 there were 15 amphetamine related deaths in Colorado. This number increased 127% to 34 amphetamine related deaths between 1998 and 2001.<sup>62</sup>

### Treatment

- During 2000, there were 43,107 total substance abuse treatment admissions in Colorado.<sup>63</sup> This number increased to 55,520 during 2001.<sup>64</sup>

#### Substance Abuse Treatment Admissions, Colorado, 2000-2001

Drug Type	2000		2001	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Alcohol only	29,862	69.3%	36,264	65.3
Alcohol with secondary drug	4,007	9.3	6,128	11.0
Cocaine (smoked)	1,095	2.5	1,518	2.7
Cocaine (other route)	808	1.9	1,129	2.0
Marijuana	3,818	8.9	5,416	9.8
Heroin	1,110	2.6	1,806	3.3
Other opiates	326	0.8	417	0.8
PCP	3	0.0	9	0.0
Hallucinogens	66	0.2	106	0.2
Amphetamines	1,511	3.5	1,779	3.2
Other stimulants	21	0.0	30	0.1
Tranquilizers	55	0.1	74	0.1
Sedatives	24	0.1	46	0.1
Inhalants	53	0.1	67	0.1
Other/unknown	348	0.8	731	1.3
Total	43,107	100.0	55,520	100.0

### Sources

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<sup>2</sup> Colorado Governor's Web site: [http://www.state.co.us/gov\\_dir/governor\\_office.html](http://www.state.co.us/gov_dir/governor_office.html)

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- <sup>16</sup> Ibid.
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- <sup>19</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>20</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>21</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>22</sup> Office of Community Oriented Policing Services, *COPS Methamphetamine Grant Announcement*, November 14, 2002: [http://www.cops.usdoj.gov/pdf/GrantAnnounce/meth\\_grantees.pdf](http://www.cops.usdoj.gov/pdf/GrantAnnounce/meth_grantees.pdf)
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